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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, June 4, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 30 totaled an estimated 15.3 billion ton-miles, 3.1 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today. Both weeks included the Memorial Day Holiday. The decline was primarily attributable to the impact of the United Mine Workers' strike.

Cumulative volume for the first 22 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 380.2 billion ton-miles, 2.0 percent lower than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 30 totaled 361,900 cars, 7.7 percent below 1980, and 8.9 percent lower than the preceding non-holiday week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 0.6 percent in the West, but down 19.6 percent in the East, and 8.2 percent in the South.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 11 of the 21 commodity groups were down, with coal loadings off 40,299 cars, or 39.3 percent. Twenty of the 21 groups were down from the preceding non-holiday week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended May 23 totaled 34,319 cars, up 8.3 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 61,247 trailers and/or containers, up 6.1 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 21 weeks of the year was 675,430 cars, 2.8 percent lower than last year, and 1,226,863 trailers and/or containers, down 2.7 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/30/81:

	Loadings in Week ended May 30, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	19,853	I	33	0.2	D	1,033	4.9
Other farm products	4,565	I	517	12.8	D	372	7.5
Metallic ores	38,855	I	6,565	20.3	I	327	0.8
Coal	62,083	D	40,229	39.3	D	2,676	4.1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,697	D	849	6.3	D	1,442	10.2
Nonmetallic minerals	12,869	D	1,126	8.0	D	888	6.5
Grain mill products	12,555	D	2,518	16.7	D	1,545	11.0
Food and kindred products	14,442	D	2,089	12.6	D	2,869	16.6
Primary forest products	16,891	D	1,766	9.5	D	2,323	12.1
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,739	D	307	3.8	D	1,455	15.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	19,699	D	336	1.7	D	364	1.8
Chemicals and allied products	24,072	I	1,437	6.3	D	4,338	15.3
Petroleum products	4,642	D	341	6.8	D	777	14.3
Stone, clay and glass products	13,271	D	51	0.4	D	1,439	9.8
Coke	7,078	I	2,009	39.6	D	479	6.3
Metals and products	16,239	I	1,976	13.9	D	1,713	9.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	17,314	I	3,303	23.6	D	2,846	14.1
Waste and scrap materials	11,711	I	1,747	17.5	D	2,249	16.1
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	8,322	D	176	2.1	D	1,742	17.3
All other carloads	36,831	I	2,198	6.3	D	5,304	12.6
LCL traffic	172	I	19	12.4	D	33	16.1
Total Cars Loaded	361,900	D	29,984	7.7	D	35,560	8.9
Corresponding week of 1980	391,884						

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (22 weeks)	9,077,558	9,683,387	D	6.3
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
21 Weeks cumulative	364.9	372.4	D	2.0
Week ended May 30	15.3	15.8	D	3.1
22 Weeks cumulative	380.2	388.1	D	2.0

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